

Dear Ashok,

I hope you're doing well. I've been good. I've noticed a worrying trend in your approach to classes. Coming from a space of concern, I thought I would write this letter to you.

I see that you spend a lot of time in class. Right at the very end of the class. Alone. With your hands under the table. Hands moving vigorously. Why? Because, you are always, always texting! It's quite concerning that a large portion of your time is invested in texting people, whilst wearing that mask of boredom.

Classes are long. The professor talks for what seems like the rest of eternity. I get it. I get all of it. However, what I do not get is why someone with so much promise, is wasting their potential. I've known you for 5 years now and I've seen you engage in classes before. I've seen how involved you were in classroom activities and discussions. You used to raise so many excellent points. From well articulated argumentative essays, your literary output has reduced to mere text messages. You do have other valuable skills that can be honed. I really wish you'd not let yourself get so distracted by your phone.

It is a pity that you no longer contribute to classroom debates. We discuss socially relevant issues that demand our attention. I really feel like you will have a significant voice here. Not to forget the fact that it is rather disrespectful to not only the professor, but also yourself- believe me, you are missing out. I don't want you to.

It is college. Chilling out with friends, bunking classes and messing with professors are part and parcel of this experience. But everything is consequential beyond a measure. It is important to understand where the line should be drawn. Moreover, I do get that academic success is not the only significant achievement anyone can have. Many are not academically inclined and contribute gainfully to society without performing well in school- my concern is that your phone usage has taken over many aspects of your life, not just academics.

I hope you understand where I am coming from. Please consider what I said.

Yours phone-dly,

Nayantara, Shashwathi, Taanika, Abhishek, Shobhit, Jhanvi, Praveen